

IN THE CLAIMS:

Substitute the following claims for the pending claims having the same numbers.

1. (currently amended) A well system, comprising:

a device for expanding into a cavity (16) which expands into a space in a borehole (2), said cavity (16) the space being at least partly defined by a casting castable material (10) disposed on a tubular element (1) in radially between the borehole and the device, comprising

wherein the device comprises an annular element disposed on a tubular structure in the borehole and including an expandable material capable of extending from a retracted state to an expanded state.

2. (currently amended) The device system of claim 1, wherein the cavity (16) space is at least partly defined by a wall of the borehole (2) wall.

3. (currently amended) The device system of claim 1, wherein the cavity (16) space is at least partly defined by the tubular element (1) structure.

4. (currently amended) The device system of ~~any of claims 1-3~~ claim 1, wherein the cavity (16) space at least partly holds a fluid.

5. (currently amended) The ~~device~~ system of ~~claims 1 and~~ 4 claim 1, wherein the annular element ~~[[6]]~~ is adapted to extend from the retracted state to the expanded state as a reaction to exposure to a fluid in the ~~cavity (16)~~ space.

6. (currently amended) The ~~device~~ system of claim 1, wherein the ~~casting~~ castable material ~~[[10]]~~ comprises hardened concrete.

7. (currently amended) The ~~device~~ system of claim 1, wherein the ~~cavity (16)~~ space comprises an elongated channel substantially defined by the ~~casting~~ castable material ~~[[10]]~~, the tubular ~~element (1)~~ structure and the borehole ~~[[2]]~~ wall.

8. (currently amended) A method ~~for providing a barrier in a cavity (16) of sealing a space~~ in a borehole ~~[[2]]~~, ~~said cavity (16) the space~~ being at least partly defined by a ~~casting~~ castable material ~~[[10]]~~ disposed in the borehole ~~[[2]]~~, ~~characterized by the method comprising the steps of:~~

~~[[-]] disposing on a tubular element (1),~~ structure at least one or more annular elements (6) element comprising an expandable material capable of extending from a retracted state to an expanded state;

~~[[-]] extending the tubular element (1)~~ structure into the borehole;

~~[[-]] providing a casting~~ the castable material ~~[[10]]~~ into a ~~first~~ volume ~~[[12]]~~ defined by a wall of the borehole ~~[[2]] wall and the~~ an outer surface of ~~said the~~ tubular

~~element (1)~~ structure, the castable material extending at least partially circumferentially about the annular element; and

~~whereby extending the expandable material may extend into said cavity (16)~~ the space.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein ~~the annular elements (6) comprise the disposing step further comprises disposing a plurality of the annular elements placed at substantially regular at spaced intervals along a length of the tubular element (1)~~ structure.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the expandable ~~element (6)~~ material is adapted to extend from the retracted state to the expanded state as a reaction to exposure to a fluid in the ~~cavity (16)~~ space.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the expandable material extends into the ~~cavity (16)~~ space after the ~~existing castable material [(10)]~~ has ~~hardened~~ hardened.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the ~~cavity (16)~~ space comprises an elongated channel substantially defined by the ~~existing castable material [(10)]~~, the tubular ~~element (1)~~ structure and the borehole [(2)] wall.

13. (new) A method of sealing an annulus in a borehole, the method comprising the steps of:

positioning an expandable material on a tubular structure;

installing the tubular structure in the borehole, the annulus being formed between the tubular structure and the borehole;

flowing a castable material into the annulus, the castable material partially displacing a fluid in the annulus, and the castable material being disposed radially between the expandable material and the borehole, but leaving at least one space containing the fluid in the annulus; and

expanding the expandable material into the space.

14. (new) The method of claim 13, wherein the positioning step further comprises positioning a plurality of sleeves on the tubular structure, each of the sleeves including the expandable material.

15. (new) The method of claim 13, wherein the expanding step is performed in response to contact between the expandable material and the fluid.

16. (new) The method of claim 13, wherein the expanding step is performed at least partially after the castable material has hardened in the annulus.

17. (new) The method of claim 13, wherein the flowing step further comprises leaving the space so that the space is bounded at least partially by the castable material.

18. (new) The method of claim 13, wherein the flowing step further comprises leaving the space so that the space is bounded at least partially by the borehole.

19. (new) The method of claim 13, wherein in the positioning step the expandable material comprises a swellable material.

20. (new) The method of claim 13, wherein the flowing step further comprises contacting a portion of the expandable material with the castable material, and contacting another portion of the expandable material with the fluid in the space.